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than a century, might be suffered to fall into oblivion.

If we try this mode of irritation practised on our neighbours, by the rule of doing unto others as we wish others should do to us, it will not stand the test of examination. No one would like to have the triumph of a procession in opposition to his peculiar opinions, annually paraded before his view. The practise has a strong tendency to stir up the angry passions; and so far from being the test of the truth of Protestantism, or a discriminating badge of loyalty, is only the signal of disunion among neighbours. Sincerely attached to the peace and welfare of our country, we reprobate the practice, and most heartily do we wish to allay animosities, and heal the breaches of preceding generations.—We would by every means in our power endeavour to cherish a spirit of wise conciliation and concession, which would have a tendency to prevent the horrors which may attend a continuance of a system of mutual irritation and hostility. Ireland will never be a happy country so long as ancient animosities are kept alive in the breasts of the rival parties, which have so long distracted our unhappy country, paralyzed her energies, and rendered her sons, by a mistaken policy, hostile to each other.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

THE SUPREME GOVERNING JUNTA,
TO THE SPANISH NATION.

It is three ages, Spaniards, since the salutary laws on which the nation founded its defence against the attempts of tyranny, have been destroyed.—Our fathers did not know how to preserve the precious deposit of liberty, which their fathers had bequeathed them, and although all the provinces of Spain successively struggled to defend it, our evil stars which now began to pursue us, have rendered useless those generous efforts.—After having silenced reason and justice, the laws from that time forward have been nothing else than an expression, more or less tyrannical, or more or less beneficent of a particular will.—Providence, as if to punish the loss of that beautiful prerogative

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of freemen, has sentenced us to be unhappy, and paralyzed our valour, arrested the progress of our understanding, protracted civilization, and after having blended and exhausted the fountains of prosperity, we have come to that condition, that an insolent tyrant has formed a project of subduing under his yoke the greatest nation of the globe, without reckoning upon its will, and despising its resistance.—In vain have there been some instances within these last three ages of disasters, in which the best directed will of the princes has attempted to remedy this, or the other plagues of the state.—In vain the increased illustration of Europe has lately inspired our statesmen with projects of reform both useful and necessary.—Buildings cannot be erected upon sands, and without fundamental and constituted laws to defend the good already done, and to prevent the evil which is intended to be done, it is useless for the philosopher in his study, and the public man in the theatre of business, to exert himself for the good of the people. The most useful meditations, the best combined projects, are either not put in execution, or if they should be, they immediately fall to the ground.—In the moment of a happy inspiration, succeeds another of an unfortunate one—to the spirit of economy and order, a spirit of prodigality and rapine—to a prudent and mild minister, an avaricious and mad favourite—to the moderation of a pacific monarch, the rage of an inhuman conqueror—and thus, without principles, without an established and fixed system, to which public measures and dispositions can be affixed, the ship of the state floats without her sails, without a helm or direction, until, as has happened to the Spanish monarchy, it is dashed to pieces on some rock by the hurricane of tyranny.—The evils which are derived from so vicious a beginning cannot be calculated, when they are accumulated in such a manner, that nothing less than a revolution can destroy them.—The Junta itself, in the midst of the power which you have placed in its hands; a power which makes them tremble on account of its unlimited extension, frequently

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meets in those ancient vices, insuperable difficulties in the execution of its wishes.—If the disorders of the government in the last twenty years had been less, believe, Spaniards, that your evils at this moment would not be so great—believe, that our enemies would not enjoy the advantages they obtained, not over the zeal and prudence of your government, nor over the valour and constancy which every moment are greater in you, but over the ruinous and miserable state to which the many years of arbitrary government which have been passing over us, has brought us to.—Thus it is, that when the Supreme Junta took upon itself the supreme authority, it did not deem itself less called upon to defend you from the enemy, than to procure and establish your interior felicity on a solid basis. It announced this solemnly to you from the beginning, and as solemnly obliged itself, in the face of the world, to the performance of this sacred duty.—The events of the war prevented at that time the commencing of the grand work, to which it is now going to put its hand, and the unexpected commotions which have succeeded one after another, seemed to require the suspension of any other object and to wait for more serene and tranquil times.—But, the Junta never lost sight of this grand thought; the same chain of evils with which fortune, when roused, delights in proving our constancy, is that which precipitates its execution.—How otherways can be recompensed those floods of blood which run through every corner of the peninsula!—those sacrifices which at every instant the Spanish loyalty presents, without being over fatigued by them; that moral resistance as universal as it is sublime, which disconcerts and renders desperate our enemies, even in the midst of their victories. He must have a breast of brass, who, to a people that so magnanimously resisted so cruel a calamity, should not point out to him immediately a crown of happiness, which awaits him as a recompense for his heroic fatigues.—When this dreadful contest is concluded, no less beautiful for our people, when persecuted by misfortune, than when crowned by victory, the Spaniard shall say

to himself, with that full pride with which his situation ought to inspire him, “My fathers have left me for an inheritance, slavery and misery; I leave to my descendants liberty and glory.” This sentiment of future happiness, which by reflection in some, and by instinct in all, animates you at present, Spaniards, is the same which made you abhor the former tyranny, which has reduced you to the deplorable state in which you see yourselves; the same which filled you with enthusiasm and with hope when you should be able to destroy it, and raise to the throne that innocent prince, who most sincerely wished to make you happy; the same which gave you valour and boldness to declare war against the most powerful nation, without armies and without resources; the same, in a word, that inspired you with invincible horror against that tyrant who has thrown upon you all the plagues of misfortune.—Know then, that this institution of happiness shall not be defrauded of its hopes. Let us take from our detractors every pretext for calumniating us; they say that we are fighting incessantly to defend our ancient abuses, and the inveterate and enormous vices of our corrupted administration. But let them know, from this moment, that your battles, although for independence, are also for the felicity of your country.—Let them know that you do not wish to depend henceforward on the uncertain will, or the variable temperament of one man only; that you do not wish to continue to be the plaything of a court without justice, under the controul of an insolent favourite, or of a capricious woman; and that on the renewal of the august edifice of your ancient laws, you wish to place an eternal barrier between the death bearing despotism of your sacred rights. This barrier, Spaniards, consists in a good constitution, to aid and support the operations of the monarch, when they are just, and to restrain them when he follows evil counsels.

Without a constitution, all Reform is precarious, all prosperity uncertain; without it, the people are no more than flocks of slaves, put in motion at the order of a will, frequently unjust, and always unrestrained; without it, the forces of the entire society,

intended to procure the greatest advantages for all its members, are employed exclusively to satisfy the ambition, or satiate the phrenzy of a few, and perhaps of only one. It is absolutely necessary that you should have a constitution, by which a Reform of all the branches which are to contribute to your prosperity, are solidly secured; from whence the basis and principles of a sociable organization, worthy of men like you, may be derived. This constitution, Spaniards, ought to be the principal effect of your toils, a comfort for the desolation you have suffered, the reward of your labour, and the hopes of your victories. It certainly will not exhibit the infamous characters which are contained in the infamous code published by Napoleon at Bayonne, and framed long before in the deposite of his intrigues. With it they wanted to legitimate the most monstrous usurpation, known in the annals of the world. With ours, it is intended to secure the public prosperity of the state, and the particular one of the citizens, performing *bona fide*, what all the nation wishes. In that there was not time to deliberate, nor liberty to resist, nor powers to establish. In ours, the actual Representatives of the nation will excite wise men to expose freely what they think, they will call them to examine, and discuss the same political truths, and the best form of its application; and the work of their knowledge, their zeal, and their experience, shall be presented before the free sanction of the nation, solemnly assembled in Cortes. The insidious forms of the constitution of Bayonne are not sufficient to disguise the legalized despotism that appears in every part of it. In the Spanish constitution, the Public Will, lawfully and sufficiently expressed, shall be the law; government limiting its functions, within the terms which nature has pointed out in the political order. The consequences of the one, worthy in every respect of the fountain of iniquity from whence they spring, have been the plunder, the perdition, the ruin, and the deplorable desolation of the men and of the people, for whose felicity it was said to be intended. The other, founded on the basis of

virtue, and purchased at the expense of the most glorious efforts of patriotism, will have for its undeniable results, the liberty, and lasting happiness of the Spanish nation. The Supreme Junta has taken the rudder of the Monarchy, in the midst of the storm, and will only keep it, whilst danger and uncertainty exist, contributing by these direct and principal ways to cast this grand anchor, which so materially contributes to save the country from danger, in doing which it believes, that it fills one of its most religious obligations.

This should not be less glorious in the eyes of the nation, and of its political interests, than the extirpation of its enemies, and the triumph of the Spanish arms; and when the day comes, that it shall lay down the authority now invested in them into the hands of that government, which the constitution shall appoint, it will be for them the most glorious day of their political existence. Then they will think themselves rewarded for their watchfulness, their cares, and the dangers to which they are subject, by exercising a power to which they were not elevated by ambition, nor called by intrigue, but by the unanimous and determined vote of the provinces of the kingdom, that have sworn to be independent of all foreign dominion, and within themselves free and happy. Such have been the considerations the Supreme Junta had in view, in agreeing to the following decree:

ROYAL DECREE.

The Supreme Governing Power of the kingdom, considering it to be its primary obligation to free the country from the evils which have until now afflicted it; all which have been occasioned by the arbitrary laws to which it has been subject; pursuing the just and mild intentions of our very beloved king Ferdinand the 7th. who was desirous to re-constitute the Monarchy, re-establishing in it the National Representation of its *ancient Cortes*, desirous that the nation should take before the eyes of Europe and of the Universe, the noble and strong acts of a people worthily and legally constituted, desirous that this great work should be performed, which the

circumstances command, and the heroic sacrifices of the people require, anxious that it should approach to that degree of perfection which men are allowed to obtain, when they proceed with good faith, and with a desire of doing right, has decreed as follows:

1st. All wise Spaniards who have meditated on projects of Reform with respect to the constitution of the kingdom in general, as well as on the particular branches of public administration, are invited by the Junta to communicate their ideas with full liberty, and as they may judge may answer best for the good of their country.

2d. Those writings shall be sent to the Junta through the Secretary's office, within the term of two months from the date of this decree, and the authors will subscribe their names, or a mark by which they may be known in proper time.

3d. These Writings after being examined in a summary way, the writers of those which are found to be really useful by the observations, or by the knowledge they contain, shall be called upon, in order to take a part in the commissions of Reform, which shall be immediately created.

4th. These Commissions shall be presided each by a member of the Junta, and in them will be examined and prepared the works which are to be presented for approbation.

5th. The projects approved of by the Junta shall be presented to the National Sanction, and from it will receive the character, the authority, and the force of law.

6th. The Junta does not anticipate its judgment, to prepossess the public opinion with respect to these projects: it only believes that it ought to announce from this moment certain principles, upon which the wish and desire of the nation has irrevocably resolved, and from which nothing that can be written or discussed on the subject of Reform, can alter. Those principles are reduced to the following:

The Catholic, Apostolic, Roman Religion, is the only Religion of the State.—The Constitution of Spain is to be a monarchy, hereditary in Fer-

dinand the 7th, his descendants, and those called by the Law to succeed them.—The nation is to be governed henceforward by the Laws freely deliberated, and administered—there shall be a *National Cortes*, in the manner and form which may be established, taking into consideration the difference and alterations which have taken place since the time when they were lawfully held.—Our *American and other colonies* shall be the same as the Metropolis in all Rights and Constitutional Prerogatives. The reform which our legal codes, administration, and recovery of public rents, and every thing belonging to the direction of commerce, agriculture, arts, education, as well national, marine, and warlike are to undergo, shall be only and exclusively directed to obtain the greatest ease, and the better illustration of the Spanish people, so horribly teased until now.

7. The nation which shall be legally and solemnly constituted from . . .

On that day, the *General Cortes* of the Spanish monarchy, after being so long neglected, shall meet together for the first time.

BRITISH.

AT A MEETING OF THE CITIZENS OF BRISTOL,
Convened at the Guildhall, the 26th of
May 1809.

WILLIAM COATES, esq. in the Chair.

It was Resolved, 1st. That at this momentous period, when the people are testifying the high sense they entertain of their superior rights as Britons; by the sacrifices they daily make of many of the comforts, if not of the necessities of life, for the maintenance and defence of the State, they have an undoubted right to insist that those who are entrusted with the administration of public affairs, should at least abstain from undisguised profligacy and notorious corruption.

2. That Gwylliam Lloyd Wardle, esq. in his parliamentary exertions, respecting the conduct of His Royal Highness the late Commander in Chief, displayed that zealous vigilance for the public welfare, that clear discernment, that pure disinterestedness, that inextinguishable ardour, and that unshaken constancy, which characterise the true patriot. That he has thereby justly acquired the admiration and gratitude of every uncorrupted member of the community, and he is requested to accept this heartfelt acknowledgement from the Citizens of Bristol now assembled